

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson  
8

# Think About It

## Vocabulary

All the words in this lesson may be associated with intellect.

**aptitude** (AP ti TOOD) N. special talent, ability, or capacity (*Tara shows an unusual aptitude for math.*)

**circumspect** (SUR kuhm SPEKT) ADJ. discreet; cautious (*The diplomat had to be extremely circumspect as he arranged the secret conference.*)

**coalesce** (KOH uh LES) V. to grow together; to join forces (*As the various facts started to coalesce in Jacob's mind, he began to develop a theory.*)

**comprehension** (KAHM pri HEN shuhn) N. understanding; a mental grasp of something (*I am lost in this math class; I feel I have no comprehension of what is being taught.*)

**conception** (kuhn SEP shuhn) N. idea or impression (*Since your conception of the problem is different from mine, your solution will be different, too.*)

**consistent** (kuhn SIS tuhnt) ADJ. unvarying; free from contradiction (*I think Al's views are wrong, but at least he is consistent.*)

**contradiction** (KAHN truh DIK shuhn) N. a condition of being inconsistent, or in opposition (*The contradiction in your logic spoils your whole theory.*)

**deduction** (di DUHK shuhn) N. that which is learned or concluded by reasoning from a general principle or rule (*Both scientists and detectives sometimes rely on deduction to arrive at a conclusion.*)

**engender** (en JEN dur) V. to produce or cause (*One good idea will often engender another, while several related good ideas may engender an entire theory.*)

**enlighten** (en LYT uhn) V. to teach or inform; to free from ignorance or prejudice (*Could you enlighten me about the theory of relativity?*)

**esoteric** (ES uh TER ik) ADJ. understood by only a few (*Jerry is studying the rather esoteric field of quantum mechanics.*)

**formulate** (FOR myuh LAYT) V. to state in a systematic manner; to devise or invent (*Professor Marshall is trying to formulate his own unified field theory.*)

**ideology** (EYE dee AHL uh jee) N. set of opinions or theories about political or social issues held by an individual or group (*The anarchist ideology opposes government of any kind.*)

**illogical** (i LAHJ i kuhl) ADJ. not reasonable; senseless (*It is illogical to fear a world run by robots and computers.*)

**inclination** (IN kluh NAY shuhn) N. a natural leaning; a preference (*Joy's inclination is to join a dance troupe, but her parents insist she finish school first.*)

**inherent** (in HEER uhnt) ADJ. inborn; intrinsic (*Joy's inherent understanding of music and movement make her a natural dancer.*)

**meditate** (MED i TAYT) V. to reflect; to think deeply and seriously (*Todd likes to meditate early in the morning, when things are peaceful and quiet.*)

**pedantic** (puh DAN tik) ADJ. giving too much importance to book learning, rules, and theories and undervaluing practical experience (*In a pedantic manner, Ray paid little attention to any idea that did not come from someone with an advanced degree.*)

**propensity** (pruh PEN si tee) N. natural preference; leaning (*That entire family has a propensity for learning languages.*)

**speculation** (SPEK yuh LAY shuhn) N. careful thought based on incomplete information; conjecture (*The idea of life on other planets is a frequent subject for speculation.*)